

From: felder@sbmail.weizmann.ac.il@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/2/01 5:11am
Subject: Must have competition and free markets in computer software

Dear Sirs: I feel it is very important to have an open, free market with full competition in the computer software marketplace, including computer operating systems. This is essential to foster the fullest development of the greatest variety and quality computer resources at the lowest prices to the largest market of customers. Open source software plays an important role, which I myself benefit from enormously. In most industries, the US government would consider the domination of over 90% of the market by one company to be an illegal monopoly, and this should also be the case for hardware, software and operating systems.

Furthermore, computer file formats that become the commonplace standard for that type of file should not themselves be copyrighted, such as .doc and .exc, in the sense that any person or organization must have the right to write software that can read and write such files. Neither should the appearance of the graphical interface of a program interface be copywrited, where such an interface has become a standard for that (or many) types of programs. Further, persons and organizations should be free to obtain and develop open-source software and freeware without requiring any kind of license, if the program's authors themselves do not so require one. Finally, companies should be encouraged to sell multiple copies of the license for software, all sharing one set of installation disks and manuals, at a significant discount, to discourage illegal copying.

Sincerely, Clifford Felder <clifford.felder@weizmann.ac.il>

> When replying, please be sure this email address appears after 'To:' <